franchises, property and all other rights heretofore belonging or in anywise appertaining to the town of Hickory within the above mentioned bounds, and in and by that name may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, acquire and hold property, real or personal, for the use of the town as its board of commissioners may deem necessary or expedient.

Present officers continued.

SEC. 2. That the present mayor and commissioners and other officers of Hickory shall be and they are hereby declared to be like officers with like powers and duties of the town of Hickory until their successors are elected and qualified as hereinafter provided.

Officers.

SEC. 3. The officers of said " Town of Hickory " shall consist of a mayor and six commissioners, to be elected by ballot on the first Monday in May in each and every year (or such other day as may be designated by the general law of the state for municipal elections), a constable and a secretary and treasurer, to be chosen by the board of commissioners immediately after its organization, to hold for one year or until their successors are elected and qualified.

Manner of conducting election.

SEC. 4. That the board of commissioners shall annually at least ten days before the first Monday in May appoint as many inspectors or judges of election as to them may seem proper, (not less than three), and shall give at least ten days' public notice in a newspaper published in the town or by sufficient posters that the said inspectors will hold the annual election at such place or places as the commissioners may appoint in said town and named in the said public notice : *Provided*, that if for any reason the inspectors appointed shall fail to act or any one of them the commissioners may appoint others.

Duty of inspectors of election.

SEC. 5. That it shall be the duty of the inspectors so appointed to hold the election according to law after being sworn by any lawful officer, and at the close of the election the votes shall be counted by the inspectors publicly, and such person voted for as mayor having the largest